

CARERS SUPPORT GUILDFORD

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

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News from the project

Clare Griffin Leaving - In July we were very sorry to say goodbye to Clare Griffin who was acting Chair of Carers Support Guildford, and we wish her and her husband David every happiness in their new home in Sidmouth. We are very grateful to her for all her support and hard work during her time as Chair of the Project.

Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch is going to be held at The Worplesdon Place Hotel, Perry Hill, Worplesdon, Guildford GU3 3RY
On Thursday the 11th December 2008. If you would like to join us, please contact the office to reserve a place. A £5 Deposit will be required to secure a booking. We will send the menus out to you as soon as we have them. Please let us know when you book a place if you will require transport and help with care cover.

You are invited to Carers Support Guildford -AGM - Thursday 23th Oct 12pm - 2pm
- Emmanuel Church, Shepherd's Lane, Stoughton, Guildford, GU2 9SJ - Guest Speakers
- The Mayor of Guildford, Mrs Jenny Jordan, and John Bangs, Surrey County Council
Carers Strategy Development Manager
Please let the office know if you would like to attend so that we know the numbers to cater for.

New Carers Group

On September 25th the New Carers Group met in Fairlands Surgery for the first time. Over 20 Carers came along to enjoy tea and cake, meet each other and to spend some time discussing what they would like from the group. Another date has been booked for Thursday November 27th from 2 - 4 pm. If you would like to come and join us please contact the office and speak with Karen.

Bereavement Day - 5th November 08, at Godalming Baptist Church, Queen Street, Godalming, GU7 1BA - 10am - 3pm

Cruse Bereavement are running this day for us, to support anyone who has been bereaved or is struggling with a loss of some kind. In previous years Carers have found these days very supportive. If you would like more information or to book a place please call the office on 01483-458123



Carers Corner

The piece written below is the second, kindly contributed by Daisy Moran. If you feel inspired to write a paragraph please contact Karen at the office.

The Garden Party

Daisy arrived late to the garden party. John had not been well again and she hated giving excuses. As she pushed open the gate, black clouds parted to illuminate an elegant Georgian house. Rambling herbaceous borders fringed the walled garden. The path led to a marquis bustling with activity.

She felt apprehensive standing there alone. Just as she popped a sausage roll into her mouth a voice surprised her, "Who do you care for? I look after my mother, who's nearly ninety"

As Daisy drifted among the guests, fragments of their lives were exchanged. Each story so different, yet so similar. Ann joined Carers Support because she felt lonely looking after her husband. She needed her own space to be who she used to be, if even just for a few hours. Jan was a young mum. Her son had a genetic disorder that required her constant attention. She desperately needed a break which respite care might solve.

As Daisy quietly slipped back through the garden gate it all became clear. Carers were all pioneers on a journey without maps. Ten years ago that day Carers Support offered a hand in friendship, to help us on our way. We were all there to celebrate who we are and what we do.

Who What Where

Course Fee Discount for Carers - Surrey Adult and Community Learning Centres are offering 50% discount advertised in the new ACL brochure. This fee reduction applies to those Carers in receipt of Carers Allowance. For further information contact www.surreycc.gov.uk and search Adult Learning.

The Surrey Link - is an independent network, which can influence the planning, commissioning and provision of Surrey's publicly funded health and social care services. It can also investigate specific issues of concern to the community and achieve results.

Since its start on 1 April 08, the Surrey Link has been shaped by carers, users of the social care services and patients. If you would like to join a group or if you feel there is an issue you feel should be investigated, please contact 08456 009 009 and ask for the Surrey Link. Further details can be found on www.surreycc.gov.uk

Adapted Car Hire - is a company which hires out vehicles adapted for use by the disabled, and which can be hired on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, and can be delivered and collected at the door www.adaptedcarhire.co.uk or tel 0845 6862007

The Bond Hotel - is an Award Winning hotel in Blackpool that caters for people with special needs. Providing holidays for people with all kinds of disabilities, with accessible bedrooms. The bond Hotel also provides respite breaks for carers and their families. For more information contact - Tel: **01253 - 341218** or www.thebondhotel.co.uk

British Red Cross - are enhancing their existing transport service by the arrival of a Disabled Persons Vehicle. Now they will be able to transport people in wheelchairs, together with carers/relatives on trips to GP or hospital appointments or a social journey. The service is available to individuals and care services alike. There is a charge to cover the running costs of the vehicle. For more information Tel: 01483 447861 Mon to Wed or 447862 Thur or Fri

WaterSure Scheme - Thames Water have a customer assistance fund to help those on benefit who need more than an average amount of water. A payment plan is set up and when it has been running for six months the old debt can be cleared. Tel 0845 641 0068 or www.thameswater.co.uk



Whats New

There is a new **Carer Recognition Worker** for the Guildford and Waverley Area. Following Alison Brocks departure in August, Penny Pearce has taken over the role, raising awareness of carer's issues within the GP Surgery's and encouraging them to take positive steps in identifying and supporting Carers on their books. There is now a Website for GP's and their Surgeries aiming at giving them information about the support they can offer to carers and information about other sources of help.

New Funding for Disabled Children and their Families - Aiming High for Disabled Children is the government's delivery programme to improve services for children with disabilities and their families. This is in response to parliamentary hearings and consultation with children and families. The Government are committing £370 million to short breaks, £35 million to find childcare to meet the child's needs, giving parents improved opportunities to work. The aim is also to set up a new Transition programme for children transferring to adult services. The expectation is that by 2011 all disabled children and their families will see a real difference in their lives. More information can be found at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc. or by ringing 01483 458123.

Self Directed Support -is the Governments proposed new personalised system of care provision, initially for older people, to be rolled out from next April with £520 million funding over 3 years. The new system will be based on the creation of personal budgets and the increasing use of Direct Payments which will allow service users and carers to have a large measure of control over how their services are provided. There will be opportunities for carers to attend consultation meetings in the coming months to discuss this new system, called 'self directed support'. Surrey County Council will be holding two events in January and March 2009, located in North West and South West

Surrey for more information www.surrey.gov.uk and search Self Directed Support. The Action for Carers Forum on 25th Nov will provide an additional opportunity for carers to hear about aspects of Self Directed Support and the Carers Strategy and share their views. (See below Events).

Events

Action for Carers Surrey Forum - Tuesday 25th November Will be held at the Leatherhead Leisure Centre, Guildford Rd, Leatherhead, KT22 9BL - There will be a choice of useful information workshops and opportunities to find out about Carer related organisations and professionals. To book a place call Tel: 01483 302748.

Alzheimers Society - are holding an information day for carers on Friday 17th October at St Saviours Church, Woodbridge Rd GU1 4QD - Benefits for the over 60's and Caring for your back 10 am - Noon and What is Dementia & the importance of getting a diagnosis & What is the Alzheimers Society and how it may help you. From 1pm - 3pm To book a place, please ring Tel: 01428 642055.

South West Carers Forum - 19th November - 10am - 2pm at the Lakeside International Hotel, Frimley Green - An opportunity to help develop a new South West Surrey Carers Strategy and to identify your priorities for the coming year. Please see invitation enclosed.

Carers Rights Day-5th December - This years theme is 'Making the most of your money' and the focus is on ways of helping carers manage their finances and access financial support and advice.

Ash Carers Group - Meets each month at the Library, to gain support from each other, occasionally have guest speakers and social events. If you are a Carer or Former carer and would like to come along, call Sylvia on 01483 458123. The next dates are as follows: November 6th Community Room, December 11th: Possibly at a Carers House, January 8th, February 12th, March 12th.

The Beacon Centre Carers Group - is for people looking after someone with cancer and progressive life changing illnesses. There is a planned format of fortnightly sessions which run continuously throughout the year on Mondays from 10.30 - 12.30 If you would like to know more please contact Karen McDowell (Beacon Centre) on 01483 783410.

INFORMATION ON SERVICES THAT ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO CARERS ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY CARERS SUPPORT GUILDFORD. IT'S STAFF OR TRUSTEES

